

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 780

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to commend Congressman Bart Gordon for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and the citizens of the United States on the occasion of his retirement from service as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Bart Gordon is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-five years, Congressman Gordon has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good citizens of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District, who have evinced their firm belief in Congressman Gordon's abilities as a legislator by electing him to serve thirteen terms as their representative to Congress; and

WHEREAS, educated in Rutherford County's public school system, Bart Gordon graduated with honors from Middle Tennessee State University in 1971. After serving his country with bravery and valor as a member of the United States Army Reserves from 1971 to 1972, Congressman Gordon earned his degree in law from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bart Gordon's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, since embarking on his stellar Congressional career in 1985, Congressman Gordon has dedicated his considerable abilities to a number of committees, including the House

Science and Technology Committee. First sitting on the Science and Technology Committee during the 99th Congress (1985-1986), Bart Gordon rejoined the committee in the 105th Congress and has served as a valued member ever since, gaining ranking member status in 2004 and the chairmanship in 2007, whereupon he became the first Tennessean member of Congress to chair a full committee in more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Gordon also currently serves as a senior member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and a member of that committee's Subcommittee on Health, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, and Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection; and

WHEREAS, during his thirteen terms as a member of the House of Representatives, Bart Gordon has stood on the Rules Committee (1985-1994), the Budget Committee (1993-1994), and the Select Committee on Aging (1985-1992); and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied tenure, Congressman Gordon has authored a number of landmark bills that have brought positive changes for a number of Americans, including the America COMPETES Act, which he authored while Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee and which aimed to foster U.S. economic competitiveness by strengthening math and science education with the goal of ensuring the U.S. workforce has the skills necessary for the high-tech jobs of the future; and

WHEREAS, the America COMPETES Act is just one example of how Bart Gordon has focused the attention of the Science and Technology Committee upon finding bipartisan solutions to improving education, developing advanced technologies, and ensuring that the United States continues to lead the world in scientific advances; and

WHEREAS, other important legislation authored by Congressman Gordon is a law designed to protect citizens from fraudulent 1-900 and 1-800 phone numbers, a 2008 law that has improved 911 emergency services, and the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which established a grant program to help bolster suicide intervention and prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, he was also the driving force behind the procurement of more land and protection for the Stones River National Battlefield; authored the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act, the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Act, and the Sports

Agent Responsibility and Trust Act; contributed to the last three Higher Education

Reauthorization Acts; and co-authored the Family Medical Leave Act; and

WHEREAS, since first taking office in 1985, Congressman Bart Gordon has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, the citizens of Tennessee, and all Americans, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the comport of a true American patriot, and his absence will surely be felt throughout all of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Gordon is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Leslie Peyton Gordon, and their daughter, Peyton Margaret Gordon; and

WHEREAS, Bart Gordon is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Gordon is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized upon the completion of his impressive congressional career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Bart Gordon for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the Congressman of the Sixth House District and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.